

Fort Benning, Ga.

Historic Trail

1. OLD HOSPITAL COMPLEX/NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM

- This complex of buildings was erected beginning in 1923. During World War II 36,000 soldiers per year received treatment at this facility. In 1951, during the Korean War, 25,000 casualties were treated. Following the opening of Martin Army Hospital in 1958, the complex served as an outpatient clinic until 1975, when the main building was designated as the permanent home of the National Infantry Museum. There on display are weapons, equipment, and uniforms utilized by the Army Infantryman and his enemies throughout the past 200 years.

2. PATCH SCHOOL - This school was built in 1931 and was the installation's first permanent school building. The school was later named in honor of Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch who commanded the 7th Army in Europe during World War II. He died in San Antonio, Texas, on November 21, 1945. He was stationed at Fort Benning in 1936, and was assigned to the Infantry Board where he helped to develop and test the three-regiment "triangular" division concept.

3. KASHITA TOWN MONUMENT



- This monument explains where Kashita Town was located. The monument also mentions Col. John

Tate, one of Fort Benning's legends, who is buried somewhere on post.

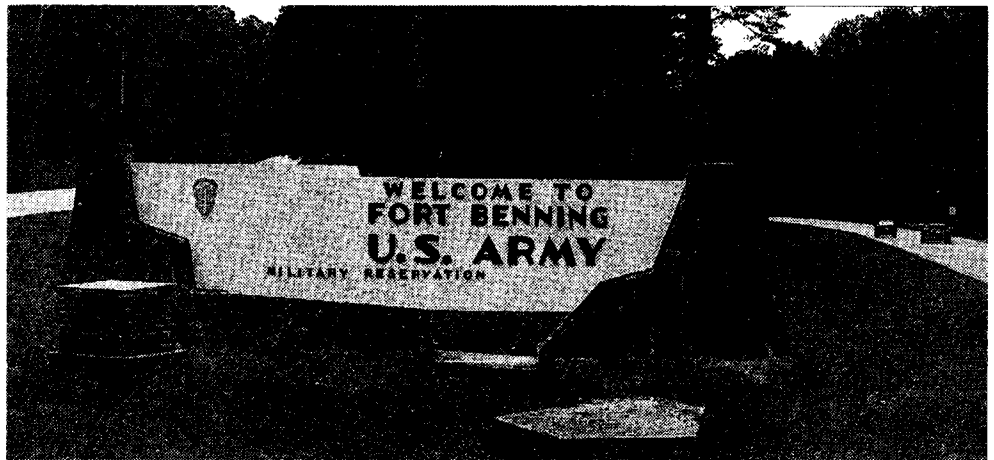
4. POW MONUMENT - In 1946, this monument was erected to honor U.S. prisoners of World War II. Firm Roberts of Columbus, GA, initiated the project to honor his son-in-law, Colonel Allen Thayer, who died in 1945 in a Japanese prison camp. The monument's original site was in a triangular patch of grass between Cusseta and Fort Benning Roads. The monument was relocated to

Fort Benning in 1984. With permission of the Roberts' family, the monument was altered to also reflect the POWs of World War I, Korea, and Vietnam.

5. DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MONUMENT

- This monument was presented to Fort Benning by the DAR in 1926. The monument recalls three events which occurred on the main post area. It is located where the Indian Village "Kashita," meaning peace town, of the Lower Creek nation stood.

6. CHINESE ARCH - The arch was presented to the 15th U.S. Infantry Regiment in April 1925, by the residents of several small villages near the port city of Tientsin. In the Chinese Civil War of 1924, the soldiers of the 15th patrolled this area and protected the villagers from the warring Chinese armies. The 15th U.S. Infantry Regiment was stationed in Tientsin, China, from 1912 to 1938. After over a quarter century of service, the unit was ordered to Fort Lewis, WA. It was decided that the arch, engraved "A remembrance of the golden deeds done by officers and men of the United States Army Forces in China during the civil strife, 1924," should be presented to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA, in March, 1938.



7. OFFICERS' CLUB - The Fort Benning Officers' Club was first organized in 1919. The original plans for this building were drawn up in 1924. In 1931 the board of governors of the club, headed by Lt. Col. George C. Marshal, engaged Mr. L. D. Raines, architect, to prepare detailed plans, based on the original plans. The Secretary of War approved these plans and construction began in 1932. The structure was completed in June 1934 at a cost of \$150,000.



8. SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS - This building was built in 1935 at a cost of approximately \$500,000. It served as the U.S. Army Infantry School and Fort Benning Headquarters until 1964 when the new Infantry School and Headquarters was completed. The School of the Americas has

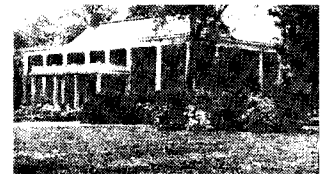
used this building as their permanent school since August 6, 1986.

9. THE INFANTRY CHAPEL/ FIELD OF FOUR CHAPLAINS

- The chapel was dedicated in 1934. In the belfry of the chapel is a Liberty Carillon, presented to Fort Benning by Harvey Firestone, Jr. The inaugural playing of the carillon was during the Victory Day celebration on August 14, 1946.

10. ASSISTANT COMMANDANT'S QUARTERS

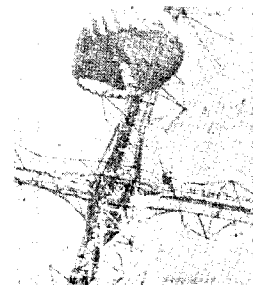
- Built in 1931, it has served as the quarters for the Assistant Commandant. It is not open to the public.



11. RIVERSIDE - Riverside is the only site on Fort Benning on the National Register of Historic Places. The building served as the plantation house for Mr. Arthur Bussey from 1909 until 1918 when the Army bought the land for Camp Benning. The building now serves as the quarters of the Fort Benning Commanding General. It is not open to the public.

INFANTRY HALL, BUILDING 4, & INFANTRYMAN STATUE

24. -Infantry Hall is the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Infantry Center. The building was dedicated in 1964 and houses directors of many of the installations' activities. A visitors' center is located in the lobby. Plans for "The Infantryman" statue originated in the spring of 1959 when Lt. Gen. Paul L. Freeman, then Commanding General of the U.S. Army Infantry Center, determined that it was both desirable and appropriate that such a memorial be located at Fort Benning. It was built at a cost of \$2,000.



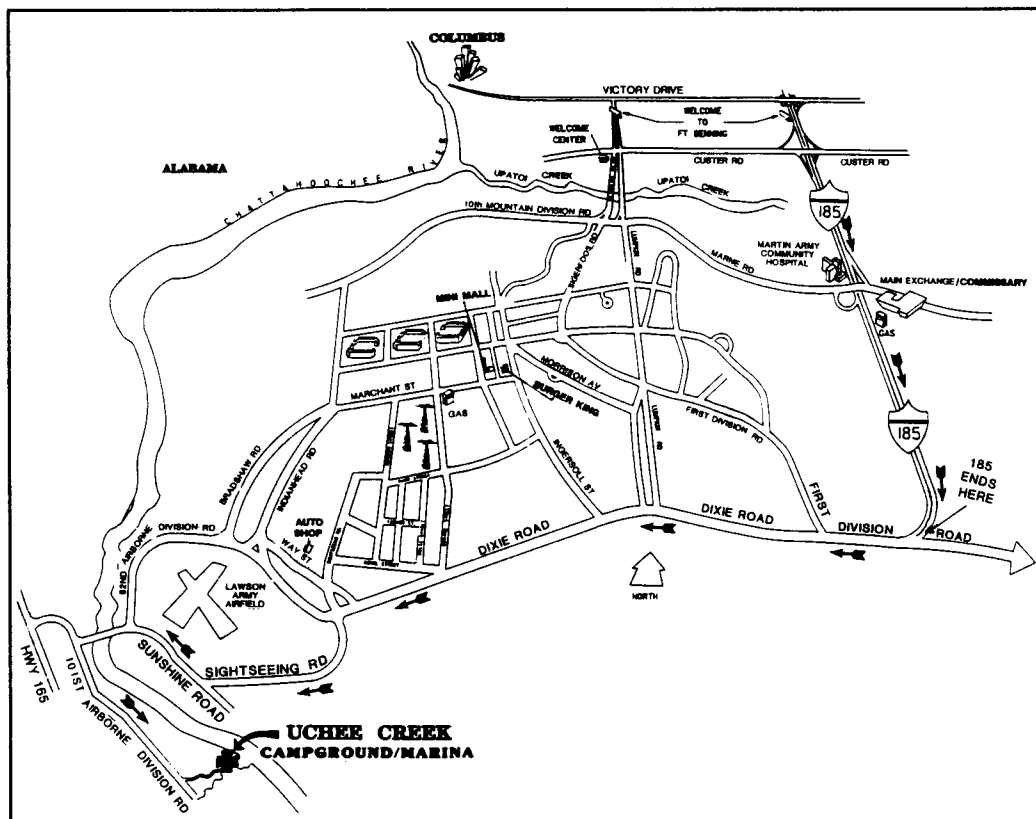
23. AIRBORNE TRAINING AREA - This area is used by the Airborne Training Battalion to train officer and enlisted volunteers in the art of military parachuting. The three red and white towers are 250 feet tall and are used to familiarize the student with the sensation of descending under canopy.

25. CUSSETA TOWN - In the area that is now Lawson Army Airfield used to be the town called Cusseta. The town served as the Lower Creek Indians' capital until the signing of the Federal Indian Removal Act of 1830. The Indians gathered at Fort Mitchell, directly across the river and embarked to their new home in Oklahoma on

20. BUILDING 72, PLAYHOUSE - The playhouse was built to serve as an entertainment center for the early troops of Fort Benning. It has, over the years, shown silent and talking pictures, and served as a playhouse for many state productions.

21. LAVOIE COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER - The building that today houses the Lavoie Community Life Center was originally a farmhouse before the Army purchased Fort Benning. When the Army established Camp Benning, the building served as a "range house" where an officer lived and was responsible for a part of the range area.

22. OCS HALL OF FAME - The OCS Hall of Fame contains photographs and displays of OCS Medal of Honor recipients, the distinguished graduate of each year, who received the "Patterson Award" and photographs of each inductee. Access to the Hall of Fame for special groups can be obtained by contacting the S-3, 5th Battalion, The School Brigade (phone 545-5434).



the trail now known as the "Trail of Tears."

26. FEDERAL ROAD

CROSSING - At this site on the Chattahoochee River, the Federal Road crossed. For several years in the late 1820s before the Indians were removed from the area, a ferry system was operated by the Lower Creeks. Also at this site, the first Army floating bridge consisted of planks placed over animal skin airbags procured from the local Indians. This site is still used today for Army floating bridge training.

SITES NOT LOCATED ON TRAILS

A. IKE'S QUARTERS - The quarters at 206 Austin Loop served as the quarters of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower when Eisenhower was stationed here as a major in the 24th Infantry Regiment in 1926-27. He went on to attain the rank of General of the Army and received his fifth star. He was later elected President of the United States.

B. SIGERFOOS ROAD BRIDGE - The Betjeman Bridge was dedicated in 1937 and served as the main bridge into Fort Benning for many years. Prior to Fort Benning's existence and the need for the Betjeman Bridge, a long wooden bridge was located in

this vicinity, extending Lumpkin Road from Columbus to the main post area.

C. 500 FIRST DIVISION ROAD

- Although it looks like any other family housing quarters, this house has a special place in Army history. In late 1948, Major Harold G. Sydenham developed the idea for the M-1 helmet in the kitchen of these quarters. The helmet was adopted on June 9, 1941, and would remain the standard helmet until 1983 when it was worn into combat by U.S. Rangers in Grenada for the last time. Units of the 82d Airborne were wearing the new Kevlar helmets and soon after, the M-1 helmet was substandard issue in the U.S. Army.

D. PATTON'S QUARTERS

- The quarters at 601 Baltzell were occupied by General and Mrs. George S. Patton, Jr., when he was stationed here as the Commanding General of the 2d Armored Division.

E. THE DOUGHBOY STATUE

- The Doughboy Statue is a World War II memorial to the American Infantryman, was unveiled in front of Building 35 on April 1, 1958. The original statue, which still stands in Berlin, was created soon after the close of World War II by German sculptor, Ernst Kunst. Maj. Gen. Herbert Powell, post commander, commissioned a German firm to reproduce the original Doughboy statue and deliver it to the United States. The six stones that the statue stands

on are from the Remagen Bridge over the Rhine River, which was captured by U.S. troops.

F. MARSHALL HOUSE - This building is named in honor of 5-star General of the Army George C. Marshall who was Assistant Commandant of the Infantry School from 1927 to 1932 in what became known as the "Benning Revolution" because he completely revamped all the School programs. Visiting dignitaries are housed in this set of quarters. The building is not open to the public.

G. CALCULATOR MONUMENT - Calculator, a black and white mongrel dog, received his name for the manner in which he "put down three legs and carried one leg" while walking. Through the years, Calculator has become a legend. When Fort Benning was about two years old, Calculator first became a familiar sight around the post. Legend says that Calculator was born on First Division Road and his apparent lameness was a result of being hit by a car. He was a friend of everyone at Fort Benning from the commandant to the lowest private. It was his habit to rotate among the various barracks, carefully selecting the right spot for chow and to spend the night. It would seem that Calculator did not have an enemy on post, but someone fed him a dose of strychnine, resulting in his death on August 29, 1923. This monument was built at a cost of \$1,000.00.

H. GOWDY FIELD - Named in honor of Sergeant Harry "Hank" Gowdy, a professional baseball catcher before World War I who later served as a sergeant in Headquarters Company, 166th Infantry, 42d Division. In World War II, he was a captain at Fort Benning and was in charge of athletics and physical training. The field was formally dedicated on March 31, 1925, when the New York Giants and the Washington Senators played an exhibition game.

I. MAIN POST CEMETERY

- The Fort Benning Cemetery is an active cemetery where many Infantrymen are buried. In addition to the soldiers buried here, there are 70 Italian and German soldiers, including a general, who died here during their imprisonment in World War II, interred in the cemetery.

J. TRACES OF THE OLD FEDERAL ROAD AND NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

- The Federal Road was Western Georgia's earliest vehicular traffic route. The road was originally a Lower Creek Indian trading path, but eventually was used by the early settlers of Georgia in their westward movement. The road went from Macon, Georgia, to the Alabama River north of Mobile, Alabama. The railroad was used to carry troops to and from range areas and to carry lumber from the sawmill at Harmony Church to the main post for use in construction.

MARTIN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

27. The hospital is named in honor of the late Maj. Gen. Joseph I. Martin. It was built at over \$6 million and was opened on April 8, 1958.

The nine-story building has some 1,400 staff members and provides inpatient care to 170 patients daily and outpatient care to 1,900 patients daily.

